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THE FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS OF  
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also of

THE VARIOUS HOUSE FLAGS  
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OFFICE. ....

Hongkong, January 3rd, 1876.

## The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, MARCH 6TH, 1876.

It is with some surprise but more regret that we notice a tendency in a section of the British public to manifest opposition towards anything like a healthy and vigorous foreign policy. A writer in the *Forthnightly Review* thus gives expression to opinions which resists in the East will feel to be founded on a misconception of the case. He remarks that the Malay Peninsula witnesses the retelling of an old story. "One reads with pure vexation of English redcoats and bluejackets driving Malays up their own rivers, sending rockets whizzing and crashing through jungle, and bursting in defences and stockades. Even if this were inevitable, it would be worse than inglorious work. So far from being inevitable, it is only the result of action which the best opinion, even in official circles, pronounces thoroughly ill-judged. We interfere in affairs which do not concern us, we send officials to places where they have no business to be, the people of the country act just as we might have been sure that they would, and then the nation is committed to one more of those futile encounters. The worst of it is that powerful influences are tending to commit us to a policy in China and elsewhere that would lead inevitably to an indefinite augmentation of this bad work on a more wholesale scale." As proof that the *Forthnightly* does not stand alone, comes the intelligence that the other night, in the House of Peers, Lord STANLEY of ALDERSLEY, during a debate on the Perak Expedition, condemned the operations and deprecated British interference in the native States of the Malay Peninsula. A good deal of this dislike of the operations undertaken no doubt arises from the account, sent home by one of the London special correspondents, of a piece of thoughtless cruelty said to have been committed by some young civil officers, which has been stigmatized by some of the English journals as an act of atrocity worthy only of barbarians. But the probability is that the circumstances have been greatly exaggerated, that a mountain has been made out of a molehill by a lover of sensation.

Even supposing, however, that the statement is perfectly correct—which it must be hoped is not the case—that cannot affect the propriety of the present policy adopted by the British Government. People who talk and write in this strain are apt to ignore accomplished facts, and leave out of consideration the trifling circumstance that Great Britain is almost entirely dependent upon the sale of her manufactures for support. Some countries, like the United States, have no need for colonies, and in particular occasion to go exploring with a view of opening up fresh markets, but it is of vital importance to the mother country that she should find customers for her products. The statements of no other country in the world have a title of the responsibility resting upon those of Great Britain. Her numerous colonies, dotted all

over the surface of the globe, the variety of interests which are bound up with her, and the mixed nationalities over which her sovereign bears sway, render the task of governing the British Empire one of peculiar difficulty. That empire is not the growth of day, nor has it all come by conquest. The later additions have nearly all been peacefully acquired, some unwillingly. But it has in every case been the manifest destiny of the country annexed, and, with very few exceptions, the best results have followed. Weak, vicious, and indolent races must, in the course of nature, succumb to an energetic and enterprising nation and however little inclined the latter may be to use its giant strength, the former will eventually either claim protection or by dishonesty provoke a struggle the issue of which was never doubtful. This was the case in Malaya, Singapore, and Penang were purchased as trading stations with no ulterior thought of conquest, and they have unquestionably been of great commercial value. But the establishment of British power on these islands in the course of time brought with it some responsibilities towards the neighbouring States. A Christian Power can never look on with utter indifference while a nation is dwindling into a miserable tribe, and a once prosperous country reverting to savagery through the incapacity, vices, and crimes of its rulers. British mediation and advice was, in process of time, sought and obtained. With what result is now a matter of history. No sensible person would advocate unnecessary and uncalled-for interference, but we maintain that it is absolutely impossible for England to always avoid entanglements with neighbouring Native States. It was incumbent upon her to chastise the Malays of Perak, who had been guilty of the vilest treachery and basest ingratitude, and it may be necessary to ultimately annex the territory. If this has to be done, no injustice will be suffered by anybody, and the oppressed inhabitants of Perak will, beyond question, be the most substantial gainers by it. It is gratifying to notice that Lord CARNARVON defended the course which has been pursued, and it is devoutly to be trusted that the Government will not be moved by the暖昧ism and liberalism policy which are just now trying to make their influence felt.

There is some slight fear lest this feeling should spread with regard to British policy in China. "The dread of being plunged into a war which would entail some expense and add little to the glory of British arms is evidently strongly entertained in certain quarters in England. There is really no foundation for all this unceasiness and alarm. The errors of the past, due to a want of financial resources, have led to an awkward condition of affairs and nearly brought on hostilities; it is true; but if in the future a determined attitude is shown by the British Representative at Peking, no more difficulties of a serious nature are likely to arise, unless as the fruit of past complications. But even these may be tided over with the use of wise discretion. But it was not a policy of meddling that brought about the difficulty between England and China. Against that erroneous assumption it is well to strenuously protest. A laissez faire policy has been pursued, and its fruits are sufficiently visible in the open violation of the treaties and the repeated and insolent aggressions on foreigners of which the Chinese have been guilty during the past ten years. Neither the British Government nor the British people have ever shown any inclination to encroach on the liberties or the territory of China, though it would doubtless prove no very difficult matter to obtain a slice of the latter if its possessions were really coveted. But this is not, and will not be, unless the action of the Chinese themselves compels such a step for the preservation and protection of British mercantile interests. Fortunately for us, the Malayan Peninsula witnesses the retelling of an old story. "One reads with pure vexation of English redcoats and bluejackets driving Malays up their own rivers, sending rockets whizzing and crashing through jungle, and bursting in defences and stockades. Even if this were inevitable, it would be worse than inglorious work. So far from being inevitable, it is only the result of action which the best opinion, even in official circles, pronounces thoroughly ill-judged. We interfere in affairs which do not concern us, we send officials to places where they have no business to be, the people of the country act just as we might have been sure that they would, and then the nation is committed to one more of those futile encounters. The worst of it is that powerful influences are tending to commit us to a policy in China and elsewhere that would lead inevitably to an indefinite augmentation of this bad work on a more wholesale scale." As proof that the *Forthnightly* does not stand alone, comes the intelligence that the other night, in the House of Peers, Lord STANLEY of ALDERSLEY, during a debate on the Perak Expedition, condemned the operations and deprecated British interference in the native States of the Malay Peninsula. A good deal of this dislike of the operations undertaken no doubt arises from the account, sent home by one of the London special correspondents, of a piece of thoughtless cruelty said to have been committed by some young civil officers, which has been stigmatized by some of the English journals as an act of atrocity worthy only of barbarians. But the probability is that the circumstances have been greatly exaggerated, that a mountain has been made out of a molehill by a lover of sensation.

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Saturday's *Gazette* contains the revised Jury List for the year 1876.

The barges *Daybreak* started from Sydney, New South Wales, for Shanghai, on the 21st January.

We are informed that the M. M. steamer *Hooper* left Saigon for Hongkong yesterday morning at 8 a.m.

The provisional appointment of Mr. Samuel Barth to be Valuator, vice A. R. Madar, is noticed in Saturday's *Gazette*.

The Australian papers state that the employment of Chinese labour at the sugar plantations of Mackay has proved a failure.

Hor Majesty's ship *Andromeda* steamed round the Eastern Docks on Saturday and was successfully docked yesterday afternoon.

Hor Majesty's transport *Himalaya* arrived in Sydney harbour on the morning of the 23rd ultimo, having on board the right wing of the 80th Regiment.

A Government notification in the *Gazette* of Saturday announces the appointment of Mr. John Ordinans as Deputy Registrar of Marriages under Ordinance 14 of 1875.

The British ship *Northampton*, which arrived here on Saturday, brings intelligence that the British banque *Borsaro*, left Sydney for Hongkong four days before her.

We have acknowledged the receipt of the "Chinese Gazette" published at Shanghai by order of the Inspector-General for the last quarter of 1875.

It is notified in Saturday's *Gazette* that His Excellency the Governor has provisionally appointed Mr. F. S. Russell to be Acting Registrar of the Supreme Court, vice Mr. Alexander Macmillan.

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## COURAGE AND DEATH.

We never remember to have read quite so galling a paper as this one in which Mr. Lionel Tollemache conveys, in the *Fortnightly* for January, his views upon the relation between Courage and the fear of Death. He is usually clear enough, and sometimes, as in his paper on Edinburgh, very forcible; but this paper has a certain air, and thinks alone, and picks up his argument when it stumbles, and words conclusions, till his reader is left in a condition of amused bewilderment. After trying noaces, but three times to follow his thought from the beginning to the end, we venture to suppose, though with great hesitation, that he is endeavouring to prove the thesis that the kind of fear of death, which they call "moral courage," is more moral than physical courage, which he incidentally rather deprecates as a quality—that if, say, therefore, he is increased or diminished by alterations in the ideas, and especially the theological ideas, which affect moral courage from time to time. These might conceivably come a time when all priests being converted or silenced, the human race would die out of sheer want of fear. With Mr. Lionel Tollemache's proposition, if indeed they are his propositions, viz., that physical courage and contempt of death are not related, we can unhesitatingly agree, adding only the rider that what we may call the abstract form of physical courage, the courage of insensibility, reduces the terror of death, as of every other incident in life, to a minimum, just as deafness abolsishes the physical fear produced by noise. This note, however, is not very pertinent, as the courage usually called physical, the daring which defies personal danger, or finds in it a pleasurable stimulus, courage like that of General Pictor, or Lord Gough—who grew gayer, and bolder-tempered, and more intrepid under the bullets—has very little relation indeed to indifference to death.

There is, however, a certain class of Chinese, who have little native courage, though the Chinese of the north and west have plenty, will die for a bribe to save a rich criminal from the sentence he has earned. The Bengalee, who alone among mankind says *"Arre bhave!"* "I am timid," as cowards were matter of moral and social indifference, or rather of little regard, in India, now die for their country, like heroes, and will encounter an inevitable and agonizing death without a flitter of the pulse. He nerve is as great as Wainwright's, who died without a perceptible change in the steadiness of the heart-beats, but who—unlike the Bengalee—with an object before him would probably have run upon the cannon. The Malay, who cannot be induced to compel a face rocket, does not, like the Bengalee, die for a bribe, but the Circassian of the coast, who will fight nobly, meets death without a murmur or a pang. An English sailor of the old type, who would face anything earthly except a black cat, has probably twice as much fear of death as the cultivated woman who can endure death by a deadly operation resolutely yet faint in the presence of any note of danger. The wild people of Central Africa, who used to make a show of mutual friendship,—"This was scarcely a satisfactory basis for an enduring alliance,"—Globe.

## RUSSIA AND AMERICA.

Some time ago it was a stock subject of conversation in the United States that the relations of the two countries were not based upon any real or philosophical explanation, were given as to the source of the kindly feeling which each country entertained for the other. Some tried to prove a mysterious affinity in spite of outward differences, between the Russian and American forms of government; but the majority of writers were content with pointing out that both had an enormous territory and were slow to have great states. They also pointed out the fact that the origin of an important misunderstanding in diplomatic circles, and now the world has been accustomed to the ways of each country taking rather coldly of the other. A notable instance was afforded the other day in an article in the *Journal de St. Petersburg* on the recent note dispatched by President Grant on the subject of intervention. One of King Alfred's most famous sayings is that "Men do not desire to have all men dead." With Mr. Tollemache's proposition, if indeed they are his propositions, viz., that physical courage and contempt of death are not related, we can unhesitatingly agree, adding only the rider that what we may call the abstract form of physical courage, the courage of insensibility, reduces the terror of death, as of every other incident in life, to a minimum, just as deafness abolsishes the physical fear produced by noise. This note, however, is not very pertinent, as the courage usually called physical, the daring which defies personal danger, or finds in it a pleasurable stimulus, courage like that of General Pictor, or Lord Gough—who grew gayer, and bolder-tempered, and more intrepid under the bullets—has very little relation indeed to indifference to death.

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## GERMAN FANATICS IN AUSTRALIA.

Extraordinary disclosures have been made respecting the proceedings of a band of German immigrants who came to the colony in the *Symonovitch* case. They were originally a native tribe, a small village in Siberia called Naiman, in consequence of the prophecies of an epileptic woman named Maria Heller, who predicted a terrible war in Europe, and declared Australia to be the only safe place in the world. Arrived in the colony, they took up land on the Hill Plains, in the north-eastern district, living together, and having all their property in common. They soon experienced difficulty in finding food, and became continually dependent upon food sent by a settler in the district, who was a fellow-countryman, but who quarrelled with their benefactor because he wished them to leave their camp and obtain work. The woman Heller, who was implicitly obeyed, as being under direct inspiration from Heaven, forbade anything of the kind, and the unfortunate people have been compelled to live in a state of semi-starvation, having little to eat, and few fruits and a few vegetables. In order to keep the community together, and so to retain control over them, the woman Heller would not allow any assistance to be asked for either in the shape of food or medical attendance, the result being that many of the poor creatures have been almost starved to death. Eight have died and been buried on the plains, and a boy of a year old, who had been born there, died a few days ago. The camp of these unfortunate creatures being far removed from any township, their condition was not known until a few days ago. Upon information reaching the Government, Inspector Brook Smith was ordered to visit the place, and render assistance if necessary. He did so, and found the state of affairs to be as described. On behalf of the Government, he offered to supply the camp, and a medical man has also been sent to the spot to render assistance.—*Melbourne Argus.*

## COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

**OPUM.** SUNDAY, 5th March. A small business done in Bengal drug yesterday, at \$15 for Patin and \$35 for Benares. To-day the latter commanded the same rate, whilst the quotation for the former was nominally \$16.

## EXPORT CARGOES.

Per steamer *Golconda* for London, &c.— From Japan for London 32 bales Raw Silk. From China for Contint 15 bales Raw Silk. From Shanghai for London 172 bales Raw Silk. From Shanghai for Contint 50 bales Raw Silk. From London 100 bales Raw Silk. From Shanghai for London 12 bales Ponies Silk. From Hongkong for London 6 cases Silk Piece Goods. For Contint 1 case Silk Piece Goods. From Yoko-hama to London 11 pks. Tea.

## EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—Bank on demand, \$93. Bank Bills, 30 days' sight, \$28. Bank Bills, at 6 months' sight, \$19. Credit, at 6 months' sight, \$39 to \$34. Documentary Bills, 6 months' sight, \$21 to \$10.

ON CALCUTTA.—Bank on demand \$214. Bank, sight, \$72. Bank, 30 days' sight, \$72.

SHAKESPEARE.—The Norwezen who died dreadful deaths, while it is true, that the dread of death itself is the root of the fear of death, to create that fear, but in spite of Mr. Tollemache's obvious wish to decide that way, he does not venture to do it. Calvinists died as quietly as Unitarians, and Catholics even when, according to their creed, they had much to dread, as tranquilly as others. Charles I. died, by his subjects' creed, laid low, and by his own, having expected purgatory, if only for letting Titus Oates murder men for believing precisely as Charles did himself, died with the calm serenity of Joseph Addison. The preachers say atheists die dreadful deaths, while it is true, that the dread of death itself is the root of the fear of death, to create that fear, but in spite of Mr. Tollemache's obvious wish to decide that way, he does not venture to do it.

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The Government of India is about to erect at Lhasa, a monument to the memory of the late Dr. Stoliczka, the Geological Survey, who accompanied Sir Douglas Forsyth's last Embassy to Lhasa as naturalist, and who died on the return journey.

"WHERE IGNORANCE IS BLISS." Ship passengers, if they value their peace of mind, will do well not to inquire too curiously into the contents of the packages stowed away in the vessels in which they perform their voyage. For instance, the ship *Thames* *Mazellos*, which arrived at Melbourne from London, had on board according to the *Herald*, 1000 boxes of opium, and 1000 boxes of tea. This cargo was shipped at Gravesend without the captain's knowledge, the boxes containing it being fastened by screw, not by ordinary driving nails. Each box had also a number of caps inside for exploding the powder. Only one of the boxes was marked, the others being without any emblem or mark by which to identify them. The *Argus* of Melbourne, in its *Review*, has a passage to the effect that the *Thames* *Mazellos* was bound for Canton, and that the Chinese knew nothing about the nature of the boxes before they were shipped, he world. 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